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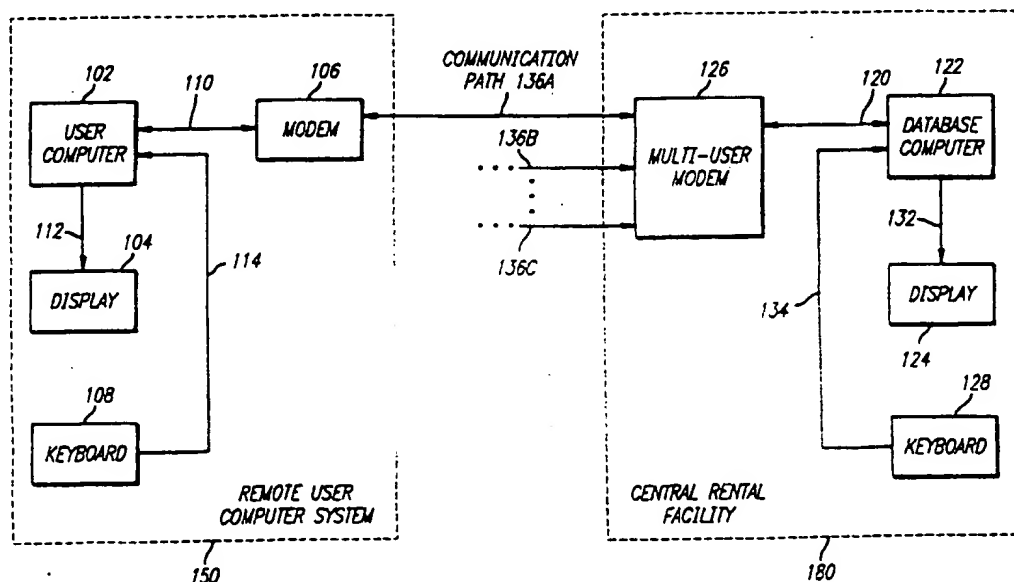
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International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G06F 17/60		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/17732
			(43) International Publication Date: 29 June 1995 (29.06.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US94/14923		(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ).	
(22) International Filing Date: 22 December 1994 (22.12.94)			
(30) Priority Data: 178,398 22 December 1993 (22.12.93) US			
(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: ANANDA, Mohan [US/US]; 549 Lakeview Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA 91362 (US).		Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(74) Agents: HECKER, Gary, A. et al.; Hecker & Harriman, Suite 1600, 2029 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA 90067 (US).			

(54) Title: A SECURE SOFTWARE RENTAL SYSTEM USING CONTINUOUS ASYNCHRONOUS PASSWORD VERIFICATION



(57) Abstract

The present invention is a secure software rental system. The system enables a user in a remote location using a personal computer (102) and a modem (106) to connect to a central rental facility (180), transfer application software from the central rental facility to the remote computer, and execute the application software on the remote computer while electronically connected to the central rental facility. When the communication link (136) between the central rental facility and the remote computer is interrupted or terminated, the application software no longer executes on the remote computer due to header software integrated with the application software stored on the central rental facility. This prevents the user from copying the application software to a storage device of the remote computer, and subsequently executing the application software after interrupting or terminating the communications link.